

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 8, 2008**  
***(Approved– January 5, 2009)***

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present were John Arsenault, Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Dean Cray, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Robert Gardner (for Robert McAleer), Alan Johnston, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Peter Rines (for Ed Marks), Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent included Chief Dan Brooks, Representative Benjamin Pratt, and David Wacker.

***A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Richard Nass, to accept the meeting minutes of November 14, 2008.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Training Facilities Committee reported on their November meeting with Karla Black, Deputy Chief Counsel and Public Safety representative for Governor Baldacci. Committee members met to update the Governor on the Fire Commission's progress and proposed legislation for state and regional emergency services training facilities in Maine.

The Training Facilities Committee also reported on the results of the Training Facilities Work Group's two-day retreat in Freeport. At the November meeting, the Fire Commission unanimously agreed to reconvene the Training Facilities Work Group. The Fire Commission asked the Work Group to discuss and make recommendations on the following issues:

1. Governing structure for the Maine Emergency Services Institute (MESI)
2. State and local partners
3. Funding needs
4. Plans for facility management and delivery of services

Copies of the Training Facilities Work Group's Final Report were distributed to Fire Commission members. The Committee summarized the report and highlighted the changes from their initial report. The Work Group, in the executive summary of their Final Report, recommended that the Fire Commission submit legislation to establish MESI and a Board of Directors. The Work Group further recommended that the Fire Commission's Training Facilities

Committee manage the initial architectural and engineering process and that current surplus monies from Maine Fire Training & Education (MFT&E) and Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) be utilized for that purpose. Finally, the Work Group recommended the Fire Commission submit legislation initiating an E 911 surcharge increase which would generate needed resources for construction of the proposed state training facility and refurbish or construct five satellite training facilities in Maine. A lengthy discussion followed completion of the report summary and members asked many questions about the report, MFT&E's current status, comparisons and differences with the Criminal Justice Academy, funding sources, legislation and other issues. Fire Commission members offered several suggestions including language that compared figures for 10, 15 and 20-year bonds. Members wanted clarification of MFT&E's future budget when it is consolidated into MESI and that the Fire Commission would work with MFT&E and SMCC to steer the current surplus for the use of the architectural and engineering process. Fire Commission members also wanted stronger language when referring to continuation of local field delivery.

***A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Alex McPhedran, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the Training Facilities Work Group's Final Report (12/8/2008) with several amendments (see above) and agrees to move forward with the recommendations.*** The motion was passed unanimously with six members abstaining (Jay Bradshaw, Stephan Bunker, Chief John Dean, Robert Gardner, Alan Johnston and Peter Rines).

The Spring 2009 Conference Committee reported on its plans to combine resources with Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and host a joint conference in late spring. Several issues have occurred that need to be resolved since it affects the Fire Commission's operating budget. Decisions need to be made regarding conference costs including registration fees and vendor fees. MFT&E requested a room to make a presentation at the conference. Fire Commission members asked questions and made several comments regarding conference location, speakers, conference brochure and program content and vendors. The Spring 2009 Conference Committee meets following today's Fire Commission meeting and will present a report at the January meeting.

***A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Steve Bunker, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission move forward with plans to combine efforts with Maine Emergency Management Agency and co-host the Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders on April 30 and May 1, 2009.*** The motion passed with two members opposed (Darrel Fournier and Gerry Gay).

The Best Practices Committee has two potential nominees for 2008 Best Practices Awards. Members making the recommendations will forward their completed nominations to the committee and will be voted on by the entire Fire Commission at their next meeting.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee met prior to the Fire Commission's meeting and discussed the criteria for eligibility for a length-of-service award program (LOSAP). The Committee reported that any program offered would need to encourage competency and retention. The Committee reviewed a plan that utilized four levels of competency- encouraging skills and expertise rather than only hours worked. Committee members did acknowledge that some fire service members without advanced skills are valuable and crucial to their departments and need to be recognized and rewarded in a Maine LOSAP. The Committee is working with William Vickerson, counsel for the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, and Ed Holohan of Penflex, Inc. of New York to draft legislation. The Committee expects to present the initial draft at the Fire Commission's January meeting.

#### Old Business

Copies of the state-wide mutual aid agreement were emailed to Fire Commission members in November. Proposed legislation was included in the agreement and Fire Commission members discussed sponsoring the legislation in 2009.

***A motion by Richard Nass, seconded by Gerry Gay, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission submits legislation to the 124<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature proposing that Maine adopt a state-wide mutual aid agreement.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Maine Fire Service Day at the State House is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> following the Legislative Breakfast at the Senator Inn. Plans include a fire service color guard presenting the colors and the reading of morning prayers by a local Fire Chaplain prior to both the Senate's and House of Representatives' morning sessions. Presentations of Legislative sentiments related to Maine's Fire Service are also planned.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Pinette

### Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

*HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

MEETING

State House

1:00pm

Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

MEETING

State House

1:00pm

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Legislative Breakfast at the Senator

TBA

Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Maine Fire Service Day at the State House

9am-Noon

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

MEETING

State House

1:00pm

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

ANNUAL MEETING\*\*

State House

1:00pm

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Spring Conference

TBA

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring Conference

TBA

\*\* Annual Meeting- Election of Officers

To be scheduled:

Visit to the New Hampshire Fire Academy (late Spring 2009)